

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 238686

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, MILI, MT

SUBJECT:INVITATION TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
ELLSWORTH FOR CONSULTATION IN MALTA

1. SUMMARY. MINTOFF HAS INVITED ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF
DEFENSE ELLSWORTH TO MALTA FOR CONSULTATIONS AND ELLSWORTH
HAS PREPARED A LETTER PROPOSING TO ACCEPT. DEPARTMENT
WOULD LIKE EMBASSY VIEWS BEFORE CONCURRING IN LETTER.

2. THE NEW CHARGE OF EMBASSY OF MALTA, VICTOR GAUCI, AR-
RIVED IN WASHINGTON WITH A LETTER FROM PM TO ELLSWORTH,
A PERSONAL FRIEND, QUOTED BELOW:

3. QUOTE. DEAR BOB, DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS I HAVE BEEN
WISHING THAT YOU WOULD GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO COME AND VI-
SIT US AGAIN. NOT BECAUSE THERE WAS ANY GREAT AND IMMEDI-
ATE POLITICAL NECESSITY FOR THIS VISIT BUT SO THAT OUR
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FRIENDSHIP WILL NOT DIE.

TODAY I AM RENEWING THE INVITATION FOR UNSELFISH REASONS. AS YOU WELL KNOW THE MEDITERRANEAN IS NOW PASSING THROUGH A VERY CRITICAL AND CONVULSIVE TRANSITION STAGE. CONSULTATIONS WITH MY ONLY PERSONAL FRIEND IN THE UNITED STATES

ADMINISTRATION HAS, THEREFORE, BECOME A NECESSITY FOR THE PROPER CONDUCT OF THE AFFAIRS OF OUR LITTLE COUNTRY.

ONLY LAST WEEK I WAS HAVING TALKS WITH PRIME MINISTER MORO AND THE NEW HEAD OF THE ITALIAN FOREIGN OFFICE RAIMONDO MANZINI. THE LATTER IS ALSO A FRIEND OF MINE AND WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR VISITING ITALY OFFICIALLY WHEN YOU COME TO HAVE A FRIENDLY CHAT WITH US.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IF YOU SUCCEED TO DISENGAGE YOURSELF FOR A LITTLE WHILE FROM YOUR TASKS IN WASHINGTON AND COME TO US BEFORE THE IMPENDING POLITICAL CHANGES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN TAKE PLACE, NOT ONLY MALTA WOULD BENEFIT BUT ALSO ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WHILST THEREFORE, I SEND GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES TO YOU AND YOUR WIFE, I HOPE TO LEARN FROM YOU THROUGH OUR REPRESENTATIVE THE DATE MOST CONVENIENT FOR YOU. NEEDLESS TO SAY, SPEED IS ESSENTIAL. YOURS VERY SINCERELY, DOM MINTOFF, PRIME MINISTER. END QUOTE

4. DRAFT REPLY FROM ELLSWORTH FOLLOWS: QUOTE. DEAR PRIME MINISTER: THANKS VERY MUCH INDEED FOR YOUR GRACIOUS AND WELCOME INVITATION TO VISIT YOU IN VALLETTA -- AN INVITATION WHICH I VERY MUCH HOPE TO BE ABLE TO ACCEPT. NOT ONLY WOULD IT BE A GREAT SOURCE OF PLEASURE AND HONOR FOR ME, PERSONALLY, BUT ALSO COULD BE OF GREAT BENEFIT IN TERMS OF MY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

I WOULD HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT MY GOVERNMENT WOULD AUTHORIZE ME TO VISIT YOU IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, SO THAT WE MIGHT DISCUSS TOGETHER OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS IN POLITICAL AND MILITARY TRENDS IN AND AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN, AS THEY AFFECT MALTA AND THE UNITED STATES. IN PARTICULAR, CONFIDENTIAL

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I WOULD HOPE WE COULD DISCUSS PATTERNS OF NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS AND CAPABILITIES IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, INCLUDING THOSE OF THE SOVIET SQUADRON AND THE US SIXTH FLEET. IN THAT REGARD, I WOULD TRUST WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY THAT UNITS OF THE US SIXTH FLEET MIGHT RENEW THEIR PATTERN OF CALLS IN MALTA, AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED WORK FOR THE MALTA DOCKS STEMMING FROM THE ANTICIPATED INCREASE OF COMMERCIAL TRAFFIC

AS A RESULT OF THE OPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL. IT IS,
OF COURSE, A SOURCE OF SOME SATISFACTION TO US (AND I
HOPE TO YOU) THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE
US NAVY HAVE PLAYED A CRUCIAL ROLE IN THE OPENING OF THE
CANAL.

AS SOON AS I HEAR FROM YOU THAT THESE ITEMS WOULD BE
AGREEABLE FOR DISCUSSION, I WILL BE ABLE TO ARRANGE MY
SCHEDULE SO AS TO VISIT MALTA, AND HOPE THAT WILL BE IN
THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. VERY RESPECTFULLY, ROBERT ELLSWORTH,
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
AFFAIRS. END QUOTE.

5. WE HAVE CONSIDERABLE RESERVATIONS ABOUT SUBSTANTIVE
NATURE OF PREPARED REPLY (SECOND PARAGRAPH), BUT BEFORE
DISCUSSING WITH DOD WOULD LIKE YOUR VIEWS ASAP. KISSINGER

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